



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

June 26, 2013

Tanya Spano and Beth Forbes
Co-Chairs
Water Quality Advisory Group
255 Rockville Pike, Suite 120
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Ms. Spano and Ms. Forbes:

I appreciate your letter to the County Council supporting the County's disposable bag law and opposing changes that would, in my mind, be a retreat on the County's commitment to the environment.

As our neighbors in the District have found over the past year, a bag law such as ours is an effective way to help the environment and businesses have found that it helps them save money, as well, as they can order smaller quantities of plastic and paper bags. They have not found it to be any detriment to business or found that consumers are going to Virginia, Montgomery County or elsewhere because of a nickel.

Bags comprise one-third of the litter found in county streams and stormwater ponds. In 2009, the County spent approximately \$3 million for litter prevention and clean-up programs, alone. The bag law can help reduce these costs. This is an instance where we would actually consider declining revenues from this legislation a win, because it means fewer bags in circulation and less government dollars spent on litter clean-up.

Your arguments in your letter to the Council were exactly on target. The law is working. People are changing their habits. Now is not the time to throttle back.

Let's keep in touch on this issue. Thank you for your support in this environmental endeavor.

Sincerely,

Isiah Leggett
County Executive